

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2025

Opening:

The regular meeting of Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:07 PM on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, via Zoom by Deaka McClain – Chair.

Quorum was established.

Committee Member Present:

Deaka McClain – Individual, Self-Determination Advisory Committee Chair

Miriam Kang – Parent

Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate

Jamie Temple Zoller – OCRA

David Gauthier – Individual

Kathy Maye – Parent

Shirlys Gruber – Parent

Mayra Garcia – Parent

Harbor Staff Present:

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director

Antoinette Perez – Director

David Hernandez – PCS

Ricardo Orozco – PCS

Bernice Perdomo – CSM

Jessica Sanchez – CSM

Erika Castillo – CSM

Erika Godoy – CSM

Jimmy Silvestre – CSM

Johnny Granados – CSM

Kelsey Machado – CSM

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Visitors:

Nayeli Strong – Interpreter

Albert Feliciano – SCDD

Kim Sinclair – ASLA

Preselah Seymore – GT Independence FMS

Qiong Zeng – NavAble Facilitation

Rebecca LaBoriel – Guidelight Group

Adriana Ortiz

Araceli Lopez

Celia Ortiz

Esmeralda Moa

Flerida Meza

Jackie Rubio

Jazmin Chandler

Maria Poblete

Natima Nelly

Reiko Umeda

Rosie Lasca

Sara Martinez

Silvia Calles

Tomasa Menendez

Yanet Ramirez

Jordan

Junko Kubo

Kayley Pronenza

Montserrat Palacios

Abbreviations:

Harbor: Harbor Regional Center

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IF: Independent Facilitator

PCP: Person-Centered Plan

SCDD: State Council on Developmental Disabilities

SDP: Self-Determination Program

DVU: Disability Voices United

FMS: Financial Management Service

DDS: Department of Developmental Services

RFP: Request for Proposal

SDAC: Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee

OCRA: Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy

ASLA: Autism Society of Los Angeles

Welcome:

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat. Deaka asked members to identify themselves by adding "Member" or "Parent" next to their name in Zoom. Present committee members opened camera and introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

June 4, 2025 minutes were posted for review. Motion to approve the minutes made by Miriam Kang, seconded by Tim'an Ford.

Minutes were approved.

Committee Members Responsibilities and Agreements:

Committee Responsibilities:

- attend meetings regularly and commit to being on time
- be mindful of participants' time by helping keep meetings on track
- listen attentively
- maintain an open mind towards others
- support the actions and efforts of the committee

Committee Agreements:

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- We agree to be respectful of each other
- We agree to respect privacy by not sharing any personal information
- We agree to only ask questions and share comments related to the SDP
- During public comments, raise your hand and wait to speak until called
- One comment per person, unless there is time for additional questions or comments
- If your questions were not answered during the meeting, email your Harbor service coordinator or Harbor PCS team

Committee Chair Statewide Updates:

- Training & Orientation: Strong need identified for more standardized training and orientation for local advisory committee members.
- Accessibility: Desire for improved accessibility and outreach to increase public participation in SDAC meetings.
- Budget Concerns: Concerns about lack of clarity regarding the annual budget renewal process.
- Data Needs: Request for more detailed data from DDS regarding SDP implementation.
- Trailer Bill Updates: Highlights included requirements for IPP teams to consider generic resources; statewide standardized procedures by March 1, 2027; protections ensuring regional centers cannot prohibit allowable services; and updates around initial budgets and discussion of unmet needs.
- DDS Updates: Focus on standardizing practices for FMS providers; developing facilitator certification; and providing a standardized spending plan template.
- Public Comments: Concerns regarding transparency, rate increases, unmet needs, and caregiver succession planning.
- Next Steps: Explore hosting a town hall event with providers, service coordinators, and families to strengthen collaboration.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

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David Hernandez presented the SDAC Survey Results

- 82% want ongoing SDP success stories shared.
- 73% want updates on new SDP materials and Harbor's implementation.
- 64% want updates from providers and community partners.
- 55% want continued data presentations, ideally twice per year.
- Training priorities: Independent Facilitators (64%), Spending Plans (60%), Budgets (55%).

SDAC Retreat

- Saturday, October 25, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Harbor Torrance office. Topics include roles/responsibilities and team building.

SDP Resource Fair

- Planned for late March or early April 2026
- 55% of members expressed interest in participating in the event.

Public Comments:

- Concerns raised regarding interpretation access; the meeting shifted to consecutive interpretation to ensure inclusion.
- Request for clearer communication about eligibility for events (e.g., backpack giveaway).
- Appreciation expressed for staff responsiveness and transparency.

Harbor Events and Announcements:

- Supported Employment & Transportation Training: August 7, 2025 (in-person, Torrance) and August 23, 2025 (Zoom).
- Backpack Giveaway: August 12, 2025, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Harbor Resource Center (for Harbor clients and their siblings).
- Email Basics Workshop: August 20, 2025, 6:00 PM at Torrance Civic Center, in partnership with the Latino Center.

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- Next SDAC Meeting: Wednesday September 3, 2025, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM via Zoom.
- Upcoming Orientations:
 - August 7, 2025 (English) 1 PM - 4 PM
 - August 21 2025 (Spanish) 5 PM – 8 PM

Closing:

- Chair Deaka McClain closed the meeting with "Teamwork makes the dream work."
- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Machado